SP-L5 Fuel Load Management Interim Report

Oroville Facilities P-2100 Relicensing

Prepared by

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March 24, 2003

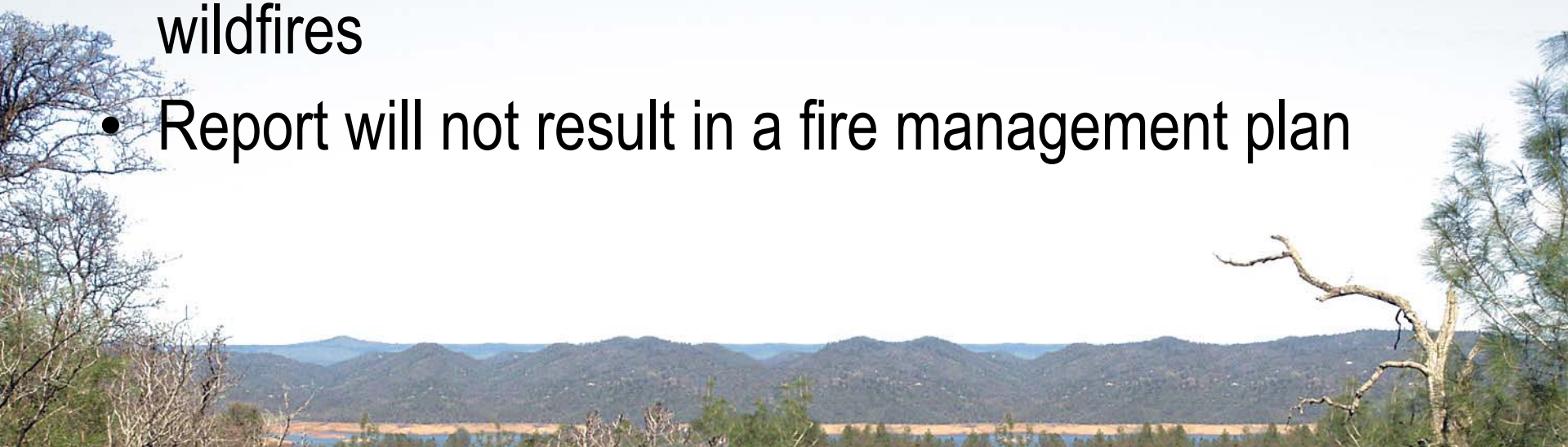
Purpose of the Interim Report

To provide a status update on the Fuel Load Management Study

- Report outline:
  - Purpose and need for the study
  - Study objectives
  - Background on fuel loading issues in California
  - Existing fuel load conditions in the FERC study area
  - How we will evaluate fuel hazards for the project
  - Next steps

Purpose and Need for the Fuel Load Management Study

- Not required study by FERC for relicensing process
- Stakeholder concern about increased fuel loading due to historical land management and fire prevention activities
- Understanding of fuel-load issues to assist efforts to reduce the likelihood and/or severity of destructive wildfires
- Report will not result in a fire management plan



Study Objectives

- Provide background information regarding fuel loading and fuel load management issues;
- Characterize the general fuel load conditions;
- Identify potential areas of concern, including fire origin areas and areas to be protected;
- Determine fuel load conditions near areas of concern;
- Discuss and evaluate the efficiency level and/or drawbacks of various fuel-load management and reduction methods;

Study Objectives (continued)

- Suggest preferred fuel-load management and reduction techniques for areas of concern;
- Communicate relevant information to other work groups for their use and evaluation;
- Summarize the analyses of other work groups with regard to the effects that various fuel-load management strategies and techniques might have on other resources.

History of Fire in California

- Ecological role of fire
- Pre-European settlement
- 20th century management practices

Effects of Past Management Practices

- Fuel load
- Forest structure
- Landscape structure

Dealing with the Problem

- Defining the issues
- Who is responsible
- Approaches to fuel load management

Existing Fuel Load Conditions

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Fuel Hazard Model for the Butte Unit

CDF Fuel Hazard Model

- Mapping unit is 450 acres
- Data from aerial photos and ground-truthing
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Technology

CDF Fuel Hazard Model

- Primary Variables:
  - Fuel type: one of 13 fuel models developed by USFS, based on vegetation types, moisture content, volume, live to dead ratio, structure, and other factors
  - Fire history
  - Slope
  - Crown fuel
  - Ladder fuel

CDF Fuel Hazard Model

- Results in an overall fuel hazard rank of
  - Moderate
  - High
  - Very high

CDF Fuel Hazard Model

Fuel Hazard Ranking for Butte County